

Strengthening Citizen Participation for Food and Nutrition Security

Supported by the Scottish Government

Location: Doroba and Ekwaiweni sections, Zombwe Planning Area, Mzimba district, Malawi.

Number of beneficiaries: 855 smallholder farming households (4,275 people).

Project duration: April 2015 to March 2017

Aim: For beneficiaries to achieve long-term food and nutrition security through support in productive agriculture and greater awareness of, and ability to petition for, their rights to agricultural services.

Objectives / outcomes:

1. A strengthened civil society through training of 15 villages to be able to understand and articulate their rights to government agricultural services in order to hold local and national governance structures to account.
2. Increased availability of nutritious foods throughout the 15 villages through higher agricultural productivity of a range of nutritious crops using climate-smart approaches.
3. Improved market position of households by linking farmer groups direct to local buyers and companies and increased household incomes among at least one quarter of participating households by 20% at the end of the project.
4. Greater shared local understanding of the relative importance of the many contributing factors leading to child under-nutrition in the identified project areas and the establishment of a multi-sector plan for addressing these.
5. Strengthened position of women at the household and community level through their inclusion and active participation throughout the project's activities.

Activities (numbers linked to objectives above):

1. Training smallholder farming communities to understand their rights as citizens and farmers and to be able to hold government accountable and petition for the fulfillment of those rights.
 - 2.1 Farmer training on climate-resilient production and consumption of nutritious foods.
 - 2.2 Establishment of revolving funds for agricultural inputs, small livestock and gravity drip irrigation.
- 3.1 Facilitating farmer membership of the National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi and providing training to strengthen existing farmer groups and promoting farming as a business.
 - 3.2 Creation of direct relationships between farmer groups and key local buyers and companies.
4. Carry out an under-nutrition pathway analysis and use the findings to develop a multi-sector action plan for long-term improvements in nutrition indicators.
5. Incorporation of women in key positions of responsibility throughout the above activities.

Local partner: Ungweru Organisation